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Mark E. Eberle

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Cover image: May 1917 Evans' All-Nation baseball team, Horton, Kansas. Image courtesy of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence (Jules Bourquin Photo Collection, RH PH 30 D.961). Used with permission.

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Mark E. Eberle

On 4 April 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and prepared to enter what would later be referred to as the First World War. Those preparations would last through the summer. National Guard units, in which neighbors comprised nearly entire companies, entered federal service and were soon transported to Europe.*

One such unit was Company B of the First Kansas Infantry, based in Horton, about 45 miles north of Topeka. In addition, Company B of the Second Kansas Infantry was based in Holton, about 30 miles north of Topeka. The similarities could be a little confusing. Both companies had been mobilized for service at the US-Mexico border in June 1916, returning home in October and November. Baseball games were among their off-duty activities while stationed at Eagle Pass, Texas.¹

When the United States declared war on Germany, both companies began recruiting to rebuild their numbers. Baseball was again part of life for the soldiers. A team from Holton's Company B was organized in August. After warming up against local clubs, such as the Whiting town team, they played teams organized by other units while training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in November.²

Company B has a baseball team which is undefeated by any military nine. Since arriving at Camp Doniphan, three victories have been taken from Company A, Company I and Company C. Two of the contest[s] were shutouts—the result of the remarkable pitching of Bugler Virgil Barnes.³

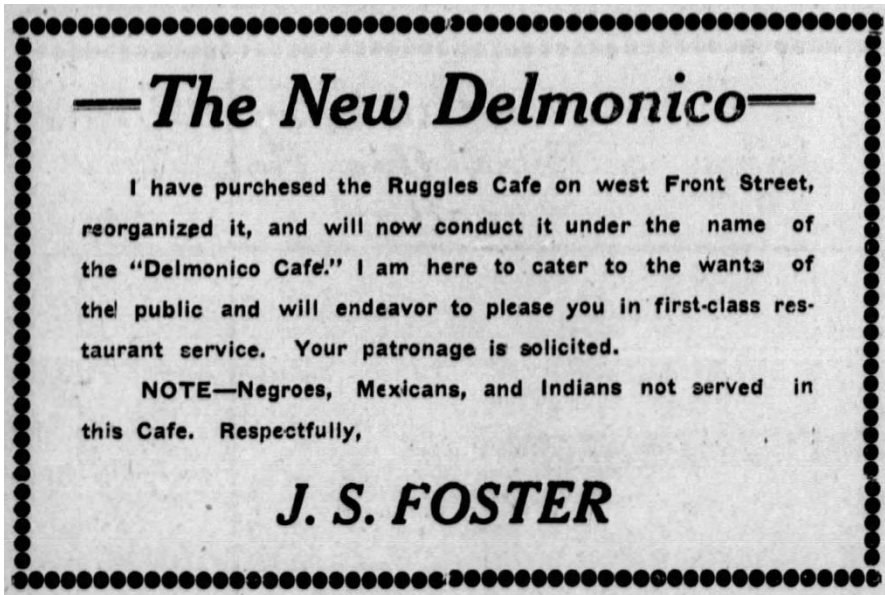
Company B's pitcher, Virgil "Zeke" Barnes, was from the community of Circleville, near Holton. Not needed as a bugler in France, he served as a runner, carrying messages from one unit to another. During the Meuse-Argonne offensive in September 1918, Barnes was the victim of a gas attack, for which he received the equivalent of the Purple Heart. After the war, Barnes pitched nine seasons in the major leagues, almost exclusively for the New York Giants (now the San Francisco Giants).⁴ In addition to playing for Company B, Barnes pitched for a mix of teams during the summer of 1917, including teams with players who were not white.

Company B										
	ab	h	po	a	e					
Barr, 2b	4	0	0	2	7	1				
Michalas, c. f.	2	0	0	0	0	0				
Caywood, ss.	4	2	1	0	1					
Carstetter, 1st b.	4	0	10	0	1					
Kidney, 3b	4	0	2	0	0					
Brubaker, rf.	3	0	0	0	0					
McKinzie, lf.	3	0	0	0	0					
Stonebraker, c	3	0	12	0	0					
Barnes, p.	3	1	1	1	0					
Parks, cf.	2	0	0	0	0					
Whiting										
	ab	h	po	a	e					
McCurdy, ss.	4	0	1	0	2					
Cramer, 1b	4	1	13	0	0					
Fletcher, 2b	4	1	1	1	0					
McComas, 3b	4	1	0	1	0					
Friel, c.	4	1	11	1	1					
Wilson, lf.	4	0	0	0	0					
Lawrence, rf.	3	0	0	0	0					
Grover, cf	3	0	1	0	0					
Nelson, p.	3	0	0	3	2					

* The First and Second Infantries of the Kansas National Guard were merged with units of the Missouri National Guard to form the 35th Infantry Division for service during World War I.

Evans' All-Nations

Through the first half of the twentieth century, organized baseball (major and minor leagues) was racially segregated, as were a majority of the ubiquitous town teams. This reflected the segregation of other public and private facilities.



Advertisement in the *Horton Commercial* (4 August 1910, p 3).

However, there were exceptions to this segregation, at least on the baseball diamond.⁵ In the years leading to the entry of the United States in the First World War, there were a few integrated barnstorming teams. The most famous was the All Nations team managed by J.L. Wilkinson, who would organize the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro National League in 1920. Wilkinson's All Nations team was initially based in Des Moines but moved to Kansas City at the end of the 1915 season. Zeke Barnes pitched in several games for the All Nations team in 1917. In fact, he was with the team in Casper, Wyoming when he and some of the other players were summoned to military duty.⁶

During that same summer, Evans' All-Nations team, "composed of Indians, Mexicans, negroes and white players," was organized in Horton.⁷ In addition to its white and black residents, the town was about 5 miles east of the Kickapoo Reservation. Among the Kickapoo who played for Evans' All-Nations were Charles Spear and Philip Wewenes. On the south side of Horton, the Rock Island railroad shops employed Mexican laborers beginning in 1907, some of whom brought their families north. Whether any played for the All-Nations is unknown.⁸

Few box scores or other mentions of the All-Nations' roster were published, so a full accounting of players on the team's shifting roster is not possible (see Appendix I). Nevertheless, Evans' All-Nations was an integrated team. Perhaps the general rarity of



Evans' All-Nations baseball team, Horton, Kansas, 13 May 1917. Jesse Evans is standing in the center of the third row. Image courtesy of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence (Jules Bourquin Photo Collection, RH PH 30 D.961). Used with permission.

integrated teams at the time led them to borrow the name of the well-known barnstorming team from nearby Kansas City, who had played in Horton in May 1916. The first mention of the name All-Nations for a Horton team was in September 1916. The team was also known as the Horton Browns, which was referred to as the town's "Colored ball team." In November, "Jess Evans' All-Nations ball team (Browns) closed the season at Circleville." Jesse Montgomery Evans, a native of South Carolina, was working as a black barber in Horton. He played right field in a 1915 game between white businessmen and the town's black barbers and porters, but when it came to intercity competition, his role was manager of black and integrated town teams representing Horton.⁹

To set the story of the Evans' All-Nations team, it will help to go back to 1915. That summer, the Horton Federals (Feds) built a grandstand, fence, and scoreboard for a ballpark just beyond the southern city limits in Burke's pasture, where the municipal ordinance against playing baseball on Sunday would not be enforceable. The city also had a Sunday School League that banned participation by anyone who played in a Sunday game with any team. In June 1915, some of the players forfeited their standing in the league

and jumped to the Feds. Other league players organized a team known as the All-Stars, which would abide by the ban on Sunday baseball when playing other town teams.¹⁰

The first mention of the Horton Browns in local newspapers was a game on 4 August 1916, which they lost to the Horton Federals, 4-1. The game was played at a picnic “given by the Horton Colored band and baseball team” in Burke’s grove. In September, the team defeated Netawaka in 14 innings. In the *Horton Headlight-Commercial*, the team was referred to as Evans’ All-Nations. In the *Netawaka Chief*, they were the Horton Browns. In October, the town team from Corning failed to show for a game with the reorganized Horton All-Stars, who were now playing on Sunday afternoons. In Corning’s absence, “the Browns put on their suits and went into the game”—with a white ringer. Scoring three runs in the first inning, the Browns held on for a 3-2 victory behind the pitching of Zeke Barnes. The two teams played again the following Sunday “for the city championship.” The Browns won 2-0. Their catcher, Adolphus (‘Dolphus) Clay, hit a homerun in the first inning. In the third inning, Clay took first base after being hit by a pitch. On an overthrow to second base, he came around to score the only other run of the game. Barnes struck out 16 All-Stars. In their 7-4 loss to Circleville on November 5, the Browns had to face Zeke Barnes. He pitched for his hometown through six innings, when the Browns tied the score. Zeke was relieved by his older brother, Jesse “Spot” Barnes, who had pitched that summer for the Boston Braves (now the Atlanta Braves) of the National League.¹¹

The following year, the Evans’ All-Nations team was active from late May through early September 1917. Zeke Barnes pitched at least three games for the team, earning a record of one win and two losses. He also pitched against the All-Nations team in at least two games, with one win and one loss (Table 1). In the game against the Atchison Hekelnkaempers,* a 2-1 loss, Barnes struck out 19 Hecks, including the first 10 batters to face him. Barnes again struck out the first 10 batters in the game between the All-Nations and the Whiting town team. In this game, however, he pitched for the victorious Whiting club, and the All-Nations batters were his victims.¹²

The record for the Evans’ All-Nations team in 10 games for which newspaper accounts were found was 5-5 (Table 1). There were virtually no newspaper reports of games during July. On June 21, the team announced that it had “cancelled part of its schedule,” leaving “a few Sunday dates” open. The cryptic notice in a Topeka newspaper gave the reason for the cancellations as “unsettled conditions.” Their schedule resumed in August. Most of their opponents that summer were white teams, but they also played a black team (Topeka Giants) and an American Indian team (Mayetta Indians).¹³

The Topeka Giants were first organized in 1905. “Topeka Jack” Johnson, who had played for and managed some of the best black teams in Chicago, Kansas City, and Minneapolis, managed the Topeka Giants several years, including 1917. In 1922, he took the Giants into the Colored Western League composed of clubs in Kansas and Oklahoma.¹⁴

* Hekelnkaemper Brothers was the first soda producer in Kansas. William Hekelnkaemper founded the company in Atchison in 1863. His sons assumed control in 1900 (Ingalls, 1916, pages 804-806).

Table 1.—The available record of the Evans' All-Nations baseball team from Horton, Kansas in 1917. Virgil “Zeke” Barnes pitched for the All-Nations team (*) or their opponent (#) in at least five games.

Date	Opponent	W or L	Score
June 3 (*)	Atchison Hekelnkaempers	L	2–1
June 5	Horton Company B	W	5–2
June 9 (*)	Topeka Knights of Columbus	W	10–1
June 17	Everest White Sox	W	9–1
June 24 (*)	Horton Federals	L	3–2
July 8	Mayetta Indians	L	6–1
August 1 (#)	Whiting town team	L	6–2
August 12	Topeka Giants	L	5–2
August 16 (#)	Circleville town team	W	4–1
August 19	Mayetta Indians	W	8–2
September 2	Mayetta Indians	?	?

Among the opponents of the Evans' All-Nations, however, the only team that might be considered a rival was the Mayetta Indians, organized at least as early as 1906 and playing for more than two decades.¹⁵ Mayetta is a small community on the eastern boundary of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Reservation, about 25 miles southwest of Horton.

Mayetta Indians

American Indians were not barred from organized baseball, but they were still subject to racial stereotyping and discrimination. Most were nicknamed “Chief.” Barnstorming baseball teams of American Indians traveled through Kansas and other states, beginning in the 1890s. The best known was the Nebraska Indians, organized by Guy Green in 1897. There were also barnstorming teams organized in the Indian Territory, which became part of Oklahoma in 1907. The Cherokee Indians team traveled with portable lights for games at night in 1910. To accommodate the poor light, the teams used a larger, softer ball, which was easier to see and did not travel as far when hit. A young Dwight Eisenhower played centerfield for an Abilene team in one of these night games with the Cherokee team a year before he entered the US Military Academy at West Point. Baseball teams from three of the federal Indian schools—Haskell (Lawrence, Kansas), Kickapoo (west of Horton), and Chilocco (Ponca City, Oklahoma)—also played across the region, beginning in the 1890s.¹⁶

As noted earlier, the Mayetta Indians baseball team was organized in 1906, when they joined the Shawnee County Amateur League, even though Mayetta is in Jackson County, adjacent to Shawnee County on the north. Sometimes their roster was composed entirely of American Indians from northeastern Kansas, but white players also joined the team (see Appendix II). Through 1916, details about the team's games rarely included a box score or other details beyond a final score.¹⁷ The exception was 1914, when county newspapers tracked the standings and batting averages for eight teams and their players in the

Amateur Baseball League of Jackson County organized through the county’s YMCA. League games were scheduled once per week from July 10 through September 18, but the teams also played clubs outside the county that summer. Circleville apparently claimed the league pennant, with Mayetta a close second. However, a disputed game between the two clubs resulted in the victory being awarded to Circleville. It was enough to give them first place, and the decision left hard feelings.¹⁸ The league was not reorganized in 1915.

Newspapers occasionally employed stereotypes when writing about the Mayetta Indians, such as references to scalps being taken. One Topeka newspaper ran a headline “Will Play Redskins” to announce an upcoming game. On the field, however, the Mayetta Indians were sought as an opponent by white and black teams, who often traveled to the Indians’ home field at the Indian Fair Grounds, west of Mayetta. Though train travel had been the usual conveyance for early baseball teams and their fans, the Topeka Giants drove the 20 miles north to Mayetta in automobiles at a time when nearly all rural roads were unpaved. Of the 15 games in 1917 for which scores were found, the Mayetta Indians had a record of 7–8 (Table 2). Five of the losses were to good teams in Topeka, suggesting that Mayetta was one of the better teams among rural towns in northeastern Kansas. The series with the Topeka Greys/Ideal Bakery team and the Topeka Giants both went three games to break the ties. When two of the Topeka clubs—the white Knights of Columbus and the black Giants—played each other in September, the umpire the clubs agreed to was William Wapp (misspelled as Walp), a Mayetta Indian who was a respected umpire in Topeka and the region. The series between the Mayetta Indians and the Evans’ All-Nations

Table 2.—The available record of the Mayetta (KS) Indians baseball team in 1917. Virgil “Zeke” Barnes might have pitched for the Mayetta Indians in Mayetta on September 9.

Date	Opponent	W or L	Score
June 3	Topeka Greys	L	4–3
June 10	Topeka Greys	W	11–4
June 17	Topeka Giants	L	6–4
June 23	Rossville	W	12–6
June 24	Holton Company B	W	20–3
July 4	Valley Falls	L	8–2
July 8	Evans’ All-Nations	W	6–1
July 14	Ideal Bakery (Topeka Greys)	L	7–0
July 15	Topeka Giants	W	5–1
August 1	Kansas National Guard (Oskaloosa)	W	14–2
August 12	Horton Federals	W	4–3
August 19	Evans’ All-Nations	L	8–2
September 2	Evans’ All-Nations	?	?
September 8	Topeka Giants	L	11–2
September 9	Topeka Knights of Columbus	L	8–3
September 21	Horton Company B	L	9–6

team was also a split of the first two games. If the “Championship Game” scheduled for September 2 was played, no result was found in Horton, Mayetta, or Topeka newspapers.¹⁹

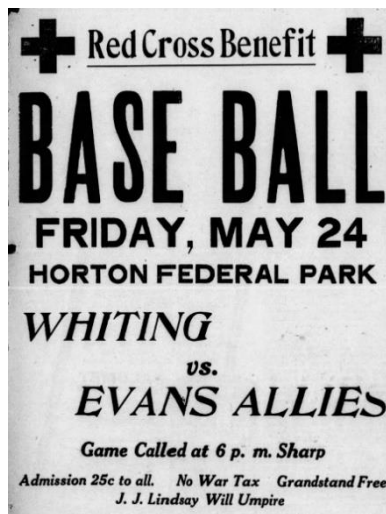
The Evans’ All-Nations and Mayetta Indians had put competitive teams on the field as the country slowly mobilized for war in 1917. Over the next several years, however, the two teams would follow different paths.

After 1917

During 1918 and early 1919, several players from the Evan’s All-Nations, Mayetta Indians, and other area teams served in the military. Charles Spear, who pitched for the All-Nations, enlisted in May 1917 with Horton’s Company B, alongside his one-time catcher, Philip Wewenes. In August, Spear pitched for Company B in a benefit game against the Horton Federals, with gate receipts split evenly between the company’s mess fund and the Red Cross. Most businesses closed during the game to boost attendance. While serving in France, Spear died in a hospital on 6 October 1918 from wounds received in action at Montrebeau Woods.²⁰

Baseball continued at home during the war, including benefit games to support groups such as the Red Cross.²¹ In May 1918, Evans’ All-Nations assumed the more patriotic name of Evans’ Allies, but it was still an integrated team. On May 9, they hosted Company B, Sixth Field Battalion Signal Corps from Fort Leavenworth, reportedly “composed of American and National league stars” raising money for their mess fund. Two of the Mayetta Indians—William Mzickteno and Willie Wishkeno—played for the Evan’s Allies, who defeated the soldiers, 6–1. In June, Jesse Evans retired briefly from baseball and left his position as a barber to work as a baggage man for the Rock Island railroad. He also served as the local deputy game warden in 1922. Evans’ Allies returned in September 1919 for at least one weekend to play the St. Joseph (Missouri) Giants. The Allies reportedly picked up players from Beloit, Circleville, Mayetta, and Seneca, as well as a “pitcher from the Omaha club.” If the games were played, no results were found. In 1920, the Evans’ Allies split a pair of games with the San Antonio (Texas) Red Sox. The following year, Evans was back in baseball as one of the managers of the Horton Federals.²²

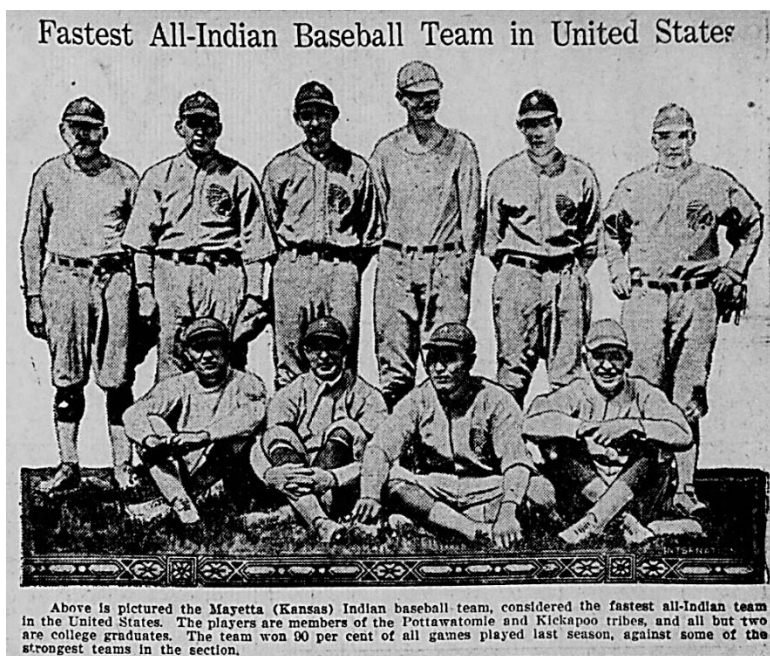
In 1927, Evans deserted his wife and children and fled to Minnesota. He was returned to Kansas in February 1928, where he pleaded guilty to desertion and nonsupport. He regretted abandoning his children but had no interest in reconciling with his wife. Evans was sentenced to 1–2 years at the Kansas State Penitentiary. In October 1929, he received a pardon from the Kansas governor. What Evans did after leaving prison is uncertain, but he might have moved to Topeka, passing away in May 1942.



The Mayetta Indians continued to play through the 1920s. A.R. Snyder, the superintendent at the reservation, initially served as the team's manager. The 1919 team played well against teams from small communities and from Topeka. On July 30, the *Mayetta Herald* proclaimed that team manager "Billy Wapp is putting Mayetta on the map." In September, the Indians lost to the Beloit Leaguers, one of the best independent professional baseball teams in the state (Beloit is about 125 miles west of Mayetta).²³

The Indians' schedule included some notable events. The annual Mayetta Indian Fair in September 1920 was to provide a unique opportunity in baseball. Although rain interfered with the schedule, the baseball games were to feature the Mayetta Indians, Kickapoo Indians, and Potawatomi Indians, along with white town teams from Perry and Valley Falls. In 1921, a dispute between the Mayetta Indians and Valley Falls involving a split of the gate receipts from a Sunday game led to a court case. The district judge unexpectedly ruled more broadly that Sunday baseball was not legal and the longstanding 60-40 split of gate receipts was gambling. The State Supreme Court upheld the part of the ruling that dealt with gambling.²⁴

In the mid-1920s, the Mayetta Indians traveled more widely. Among their opponents in 1924 and 1925 were the Red Sox, a baseball team composed of inmates at the Kansas State Penitentiary in Lansing. The Red Sox was a good team that understandably enjoyed home field advantage. They defeated the Indians both years. A photograph of the 1924 or 1925 team was published in newspapers across the country in May 1925.²⁵



Mayetta (Kansas) Indians baseball team. *Plainfield (NJ) Courier-News*, 18 May 1925, p 12, and *Sedalia (MO) Democrat*, 25 May 1925, p 8.

In October 1928, four of the Indians—an unnamed Mzickteno, Anthony Wapp, Leo Wapp, and “Big Bill” Wishkeno—played for the “All-Stars of Jackson County” against the town team from Goff, Kansas. Also slated to play for the All-Stars were Virgil and Jesse Barnes, who would be pitching to T.J. Young, a catcher for the Kansas City Monarchs. In the end, Jess pitched the entire game, while Zeke played left field. T.J. Young did not play. The All-Stars won, 8–3.²⁶

As was true for all of the early town teams in Kansas, the Evans’ All-Nations and Mayetta Indians faded from the diamond, as did the memories of their contributions to the local communities during a challenging time in the nation’s history. Yet, in 1917, as the United States mobilized for war, during a time when segregation was entrenched in the United States, these two baseball teams were sought as opponents in northeastern Kansas. One was an integrated team named for its black manager. The other was composed of American Indians. These 1917 clubs were not professional barnstorming teams of imported players. Their rosters were filled by area residents who took the field against each other and against white and black teams in the region for their shares of gate receipts and the pleasure there was in playing baseball, the American pastime.

Acknowledgements

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- ²⁰ *Horton Headlight-Commercial*, 31 May 1917, p 1; 21 June 1917, p 7; 7 November 1918, p 1; 29 May 1919, p 9.
- ²¹ *Horton Headlight-Commercial*, 23 May 1918, p 7.
- ²² *Horton Headlight-Commercial*, 9 May 1918, p 1; 16 May 1918, p 1; 23 May 1918, p 3, 7; 30 May 1918, p 1, 6; 6 June 1918, p 5; 31 October 1918, p 5; 25 September 1919, p 1; 9 February 1922, p 7; 2 November 1922, p 8. • *Topeka Daily Capital*, 16 August 1920, p 2; 17 August 1920, p 10; 26 May 1921, p 8; 20 October 1921, p 1.
- ²³ *Horton Headlight-Commercial*, 16 May 1918, p 1; 20 June 1918, p 3. • *Mayetta Herald*, 10 July 1918, p 1; 31 July 1918, p 4; 4 June 1919, p 4; 11 June 1919, p 4; 9 July 1919, p 1, 4; 16 July 1919, p 1; 23 July 1919, p 1; 30 July 1919, p 1; 6 August 1919, p 1; 13 August 1919, p 1; 20 August 1919, p 1; 27 August 1919, p 1; 3 September 1919, p 1; 10 September 1919, p 1. • *Topeka Daily Capital*, 25 June 1919, p 2; 14 July 1919, p 2. • Johnson (2017).
- ²⁴ *Farmers' Vindicator*, 9 July 1920, p 4; 8 October 1920, p 8; 17 June 1921, p 1. • *Holton Signal*, 1 July 1920, p 6; 15 July 1920, p 1; 22 July 1920, p 6; 29 July 1920, p 6; 26 May 1921, p 6; 9 June 1921, p 3; 16 June 1921, p 3; 21 July 1921, p 3; 4 August 1921, p 3; 18 August 1921, p 4; 25 August 1921, p 3; 1 September 1921, p 4; 22 September 1921, p 4; 6 October 1921, p 8; 27 April 1922, p 1; 4 May 1922, p 1; 11 May 1922, p 4; 18 May 1922, p 10; 25 May 1922, p 10; 1 June 1922, p 3; 8 June 1922, p 10; 15 June 1922, p 4; 22 June 1922, p 5; 13 July 1922, p 4; 20 July 1922, p 4; 3 August 1922, p 3; 17 August 1922, p 7; 24 August 1922, p 4; 31 August 1922, p 3. • *Sabetha Herald*, 28 October 1920, p 6. • *Topeka Daily Capital*, 2 May 1920, p 8; 24 May 1920, p 6; 19 July 1920, p 6; 2 August 1920, p 2; 9 August 1920, p 2; 30 August 1920, p 2; 4 September 1920, p 5; 4 October 1920, p 2; 11 October 1920, p 2; 25 July 1921, p 6; 30 July 1921, p 2; 16 August 1921, p 2; 31 October 1921, p 2; 12 June 1922, p 6; 3 July 1922, p 2. • Eberle (2017a, pages 100–101).
- ²⁵ *Barnes Chief*, 12 June 1924, p 5. • *Frankfort Index*, 25 August 1928, p 3. • *Goff Advance*, 2 August 1928, p 2; 23 August 1928, p 4. • *Harveyville Monitor*, 21 August 1924, p 1. • *Havensville Review*, 18 June 1925, p 4. • *Holton Recorder*, 24 May 1923, p 10; 7 June 1923, p 10; 28 June 1923, p 4; 19 July 1923, p 8; 26 July 1923, p 3; 16 August 1923, p 9; 23 August 1923, p 9; 6 September 1923, p 8; 13 September 1923, p 9. • *Holton Signal*, 9 August 1923, p 4; 16 August 1923, p 7; 4 October 1923, p 6. • *Lansing Golden Rule*, 1 August 1925, p 4. • *Lansing Square Deal*, 1 August 1924, p 4. • *Lincoln State Journal*, 15 July 1924, p 9; 3 August 1925, p 8. • *Manhattan Morning Chronicle*, 22 July 1924, p 1. • *Muscotah Record*, 18 September 1924, p 1. • *Plainfield Courier-News*, 18 May 1925, p 12. • *Sedalia Democrat*, 25 May 1925, p 8. • *Soldier Clipper*, 9 July 1924, p 4; 17 August 1924, p 1; 5 August 1925, p 5.
- ²⁶ *Goff Advance*, 4 October 1928, p 1, 3; 11 October 1928, p 1.

Appendix I: 1917 Evans' All-Nations Baseball Club Roster

This is a partial list derived from the few box scores and game summaries available in area newspapers. First names or initials for some players were not given.

- 1) Virgil "Zeke" Barnes
- 2) Pete Berney (fill-in from Everest)
- 3) Adolphus ('Dolphus) Clay
- 4) Charles Fletcher [second baseman from Circleville]
- 5) ? Fuget—Roy Fuget (Barbers & Porters SS in 1915 and 1B in 1916) or Sterling M. Fuget (Barbers & Porters 2B in 1916)
- 6) ? Hayden
- 7) ? Holcomb (from Powhattan?)
- 8) Reginald "R.V." Hopkins (fill-in from Everest)
- 9) Bud Lacey (fill-in from Everest)
- 10) Arthur "Dutch" Lonborg
- 11) William Lonborg
- 12) ? Maxwell (from Horton?)
- 13) Charles Spear
- 14) ? Strausberg
- 15) Philip Wewenes

Appendix II: 1917 Mayetta Indians Baseball Club Roster

This is a partial list derived from the few box scores and game summaries available in area newspapers. Spellings of the names varied widely, as illustrated in the second and third lists below, which were taken from box scores. Players marked with an asterisk (*) attended school at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas.

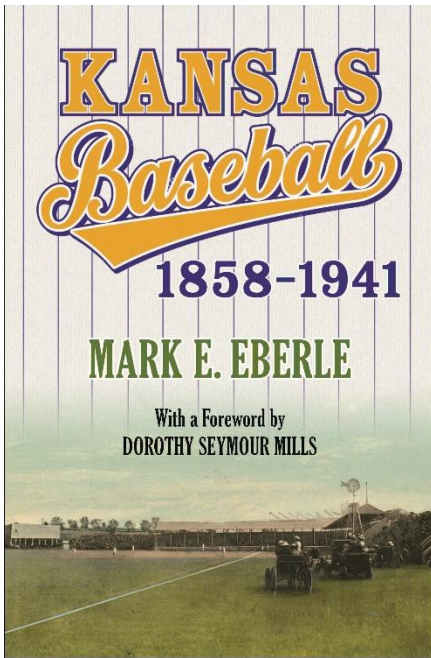
- 1) * Earl Grinnell
- 2) Peter Mzhickteno
- 3) * William "Bill" Mzhickteno
- 4) John Negonsott
- 5) Frankie Toposh
- 6) John Wabnum
- 7) Arthur Wishkeno
- 8) * William "Willie" Wishkeno
- 9) Virgil "Zeke" Barnes? ["Barnes" filled in as the pitcher in Topeka on September 9]
- 10) Charles Fletcher [fill-in second baseman from Circleville]
- 11) Ralph "R.H." Jaenicke [fill-in catcher from Topeka]
- 12) T. Muske?
- 13) "Big Ed" Seitz [fill-in pitcher from Topeka]
- 14) ? Snow
- 15) ? Zee

From the *Farmers' Vindicator (Valley Falls)*, 6 July 1917, p 8.

- 1) C. Fletcher 2B [Charles Fletcher]
- 2) W. Wislkem SS [William "Willie" Wishkeno]
- 3) B. Nizhiklom 3B [William "Bill" Mzhickteno]
- 4) E. Gunnell 1B [Earl Grinnell]
- 5) A. Wislkem LF [Arthur Wishkeno]
- 6) F. Topash RF [Frankie Toposh]
- 7) T. Negonsett C [John Negonsott]
- 8) P. Wislkem P [Peter Mzhickteno]
- 9) C. Wislkem CF

From the *Topeka Daily Capital*, 10 September 1917, p 11.

- 1) W. Wiskenow 2B [William "Willie" Wishkeno]
- 2) B. Zick 3B [William "Bill" Mzhickteno]
- 3) T. Muske SS
- 4) E. Grinnel CF [Earl Grinnell]
- 5) A. Wishken RF [Arthur Wishkeno]
- 6) T. Tapash LF [Frankie Toposh]
- 7) R. Zic 1B [Peter Mzhickteno]
- 8) J. Neg C [John Negonsott]
- 9) Barnes P [Virgil "Zeke" Barnes?]



You can learn more about the early history of baseball played by teams throughout Kansas, in the book *Kansas Baseball, 1858–1941*, published in 2017 by the University Press of Kansas and available in paperback or e-book through bookstores and online retailers.

The book explores the early game played by hundreds of town teams composed of white males, as well as teams of women, African Americans, American Indians, and Mexican Americans. Also described are the regional minor leagues and the major league tours, along with the histories of towns still playing baseball in the state's oldest ballparks constructed between 1924 and 1940.